

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15

/082 W

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R 301105Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1688

UNCLAS MONROVIA 6150

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US, LI

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT

REF: STATE 211862

1. POST HAS RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL REACTION ON PANMUNJOM INCIDENT FROM GOL BUT THERE REMAINS LITTLE DOUBT THAT SYMPATHY LIES WITH UNITED STATES AND SOUTH KOREA, AND THAT TRADITIONAL LIBERIAN SUPPORT FOR SOUTH KOREA AT UN REMAINS UNAFFECTED (IF NOT STRENGTHENED) BY INCIDENT.

2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS REFLECT WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE REACTION AMONG MOST GOL OFFICIALS. LIBERIAN STAR OF AUGUST 23 IN ADDITION TO REPORTING U.S. VERSION OF INCIDENT, CARRIED FOLLOWING FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED AXE DIPLOMACY: "NORTH KOREA HAS STOOPED TO A NEW LOW IN BARBARISM WITH THE APPARENTLY PREMEDITATED AXE-MURDER OF TWO AMERICAN OFFICERS AT THE CEASE-FIRE VILLAGE OF PANMUNJOM. THE REGIME OF PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG MAY HOPE BY ITS BRUTAL ACT TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR RECENT SUGGESTION FOR A GRADUAL PHASEOUT OF THE 42,000 AMERICAN GROUND TROOPS STILL STATIONED IN SOUTH KOREA. THE EFFECT WILL BE EXACTLY OPPOSITE. THE BRUTISHNESS ENGAGED IN BY PYONGYANG COULD EVEN SERVE TO MUTE THE CONCERN OF MANY AMERICANS WHO HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY DISENCHANTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE, WHOSE DESPOTISM IS MADE TO APPEAR LESS ONEROUS BY COMPARISON. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE ATROCITY WAS

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DESIGNED TO PROVOKE AN EXTREME AMERICAN REACTION -- A RETALIATION

THAT WOULD RALLY SYMPATHY FOR THE NORTH KOREANS AT THE JUST-ENDED  
NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN SRI LANKA AND SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN  
PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST THAT THE CONFERENCE DEMAND WITHDRAWAL OF  
ALL UNITED STATES TROOPS AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM SOUTH KOREA.  
BOTH WASHINGTON AND THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS SHOULD SURELY BE  
TRASTED TO HAVE BETTER SENSE THAN TO FALL FOR SUCH AN INHUMAN  
AND PRIMITIVE RUSE.".

HORAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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